

Lessons 5–6 A great nation is born

Use of English

The past perfect is used to talk about a past action that happened earlier than another past action. For example, *When I got to the airport, I realised I **had left** my passport at home.*

- 1 Read the following sentences and decide which action happened first and which happened second. Write 1 or 2 above the underlined verbs.

- a My mother had worried a lot about me before she heard that I was safe with my friends.
- b By the time the firefighters arrived, the building had already burned down.
- c The plane had taken off by the time I got to the airport.
- d She had already entered the room when the air-conditioning stopped working.

- 2 Fill in the gaps by changing the verbs in brackets to the correct form. Use the past perfect or the past simple.

- 1 When she _____ (leave) her house, it _____ (start) raining.
- 2 When Ahmad _____ (arrive) at the stadium, the match _____ (begin) already.
- 3 I _____ (be) tired because I _____ (study) for over eight hours!
- 4 She _____ (watch) the movie again because she _____ (see) it before and she liked it!
- 5 He _____ (feel) very ill because he _____ (not sleep) well.

- 7 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 When Sheikh Zayed _____ (become) ruler, his father _____ (die) already.
- 2 When the UAE _____ (start) as a nation in 1971, Sheikh Zayed _____ (be) the ruler of Abu Dhabi since 1966.
- 3 Before the UAE _____ (become) independent, scientists _____ (discover) oil.